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Make Dairying Pay

The Record Way



PA No. 296

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service and Federal
Extension Service, Cooperating

National Cooperative Dairy Herd Improvement Program

Three record-keeping plans . . . Take your pick

1. Standard DHIA



- Dairy-herd-improvement association employs a supervisor who visits farm one day each month to weigh and sample milk from each cow. He may also weigh the grain fed each cow and the roughage fed the herd. In some associations this service is provided every other month.

- Supervisor calculates standard DHIA production and feed records for cows and herd, or the records may be calculated in a central office. The records are entered in the dairyman's herd-record book. The records include production to date, monthly and year-to-date herd totals, total and average feed cost, and income over feed cost for the herd.

- Identification records are maintained and recorded. When available, registration numbers are used. Nonregistered animals are eartagged to establish their identity. Thus, a lifetime record for each cow is developed.

- Production records made in the herd are used for proving sires in the National Sire-Proving Program.

Approximate cost: Local DHIA board of directors fixes costs. Standard DHIA charges cover supervisor's time for weighing, sampling, and testing the milk and calculating the records. Average cost in most sections of the United States is 40 cents per cow per month.

2. Owner-Sampler



- The dairy-herd-improvement-association supervisor leaves sample bottles and record sheet at the farm one day each month. On the evening of that day and the next morning, the owner weighs the milk yield of each cow and records the weight on his record sheet. He takes a sample of each cow's milk for butterfat testing. He may also record the amount of grain fed each cow and the amount of roughage fed to the herd.

- Next day the samples are tested and the records are calculated by the supervisor or in a central office.

- Dairyman receives monthly and yearly reports, usually by mail. The reports give complete records of cow and herd. These records provide the dairyman adequate information for feeding and culling.

- Owner-sampler records are not used in the National Sire-Proving Program, because the supervisor does not sample and weigh the milk.



Approximate cost: Local DHIA board of directors fixes costs. Owner-sampler charges cover cost of testing the milk and calculating the records. Costs vary, but they are usually half the cost of standard DHIA.

3. Weigh-a-Day-a-Month

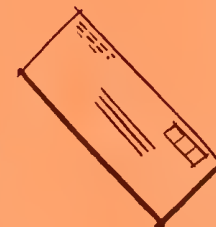


- Dairyman enrolls in weigh-a-day-a-month plan and obtains necessary forms and instructions from his county agricultural agent.

- Dairyman weighs each cow's milk morning and evening on the 15th of the month. He records the weights on the record forms supplied him, which he mails to a central office where the records are calculated. He may also include herd feed records on the forms.

- Milk records for each cow for the month, production to date, monthly herd records, and year-to-date herd totals are calculated. If feed records are reported, the total and average feed cost and income over feed cost for the herd for each month and for the year are calculated.

- The completed monthly reports for the individual cows and for the herd are mailed to the dairyman.



Approximate cost: Costs vary. Weigh-a-day-a-month charges cover cost of calculating records and incidental expenses, usually not more than 5 cents per cow per month.

Why keep records?

They help you to



1. Cull out low producers and increase net income



2. Feed grain according to production and save money

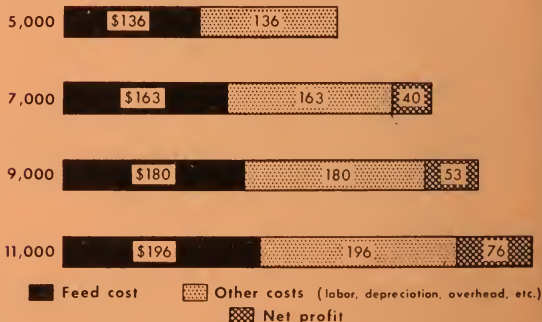


3. Select cows whose calves will be good herd replacement

HIGHER PROFITS

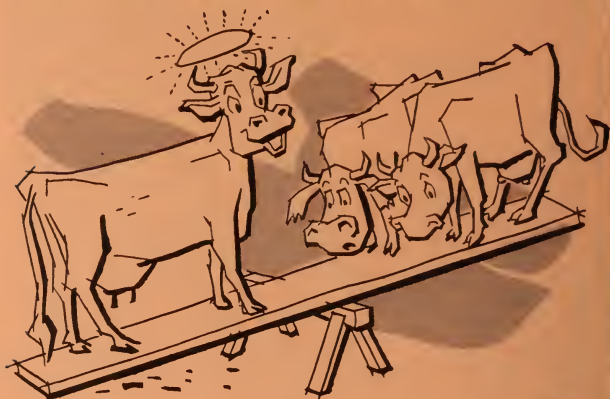
With Higher Production per Cow

POUNDS OF MILK



SOURCE: DAIRY HERD IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION RECORDS

You can't afford to *Dairy*
without production records



Why milk, feed, and care for *two poor* cows when *one good* cow will yield more total income over feed cost?

The milk your poor cows produce (at no profit to you) adds to the surplus and depresses the price of milk.

- *Want more information?*
- *Want to enroll in any of these record-keeping plans?*
- *See your county agricultural agent or write to the extension dairyman at your State agricultural college.*

Washington, D. C.

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